

1 **ESCR 8404** - H AMD 960

2 By Representative Reams

3 On page 1, line 1, beginning with "WHEREAS" strike the  
4 remainder of the resolution and insert:

5 "WHEREAS, The residents of Washington should be safe from life  
6 and property loss due to fire; and

7 WHEREAS, Many of Washington's existing residential,  
8 commercial, storage, and other buildings are not constructed using  
9 modern fire prevention and suppression standards; and

10 WHEREAS, Residents of the state have suffered significant life  
11 and property loss in fires occurring in such buildings; and

12 WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes that substantial financial  
13 and administrative burdens are associated with altering these  
14 buildings to meet modern fire prevention and suppression standards  
15 and that it is difficult for the owners of such buildings to  
16 finance these costs; and

17 WHEREAS, There has been little progress by local jurisdictions  
18 to address these issues;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the State of  
20 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a Joint  
21 Select Committee on Fire Suppression be established to:

22 (1) Investigate the problems of insufficient fire prevention  
23 features and inadequate fire suppression features in existing  
24 buildings in Washington state, and costs associated with altering  
25 these buildings to include such features;

26 (2) Review the actions of other jurisdictions nation-wide to  
27 address the issues of insufficient fire prevention features and  
28 inadequate fire suppression features in existing buildings, and  
29 costs associated with altering these buildings to include such  
30 features; and

1 (3) Make recommendations to the legislature and to the  
2 governor regarding ways that the state, local jurisdictions, fire  
3 protection services, and the private sector can work cooperatively  
4 to reduce the financial and administrative burdens to alter  
5 existing buildings to include such features, including possible tax  
6 incentives; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That:

8 (1) The joint select committee consist of eight voting  
9 members, two from each major caucus of the Senate and the House of  
10 Representatives to be appointed by the President of the Senate and  
11 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively;

12 (2) The State Fire Marshal shall be an ex officio nonvoting  
13 member of the joint select committee;

14 (3) A member of the state building code council, appointed by  
15 action of the council, shall be an ex officio nonvoting member of  
16 the joint select committee;

17 (4) The members of the joint select committee shall select  
18 from among their voting members a chair and other officers as the  
19 joint select committee deems appropriate;

20 (5) The joint select committee may appoint as needed to carry  
21 out its duties the following:

22 (a) Subcommittees; and

23 (b) Advisory groups of nonmembers;

24 (6) The Senate Committee Services and the House of  
25 Representatives Office of Program Research shall provide staffing  
26 for the joint select committee; and

27 (7) All expenses and hiring of additional staff shall be  
28 subject to the approval of the Senate Facilities and Operations  
29 Committee and the House of Representatives Executive Rules  
30 Committee; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee shall  
32 report its findings and recommendations to the legislature by  
33 January 1, 1996."

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**EFFECT:** Rewrites the resolution to remove references to automatic fire extinguishing systems. Includes language directing the committee to study possible tax incentives. Adds a member of the state building code advisory council as an ex officio nonvoting member of the committee.